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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

- State enlists 20,000 school boys and girls for farm work. *AUG 5-1944*
Farmers gain \$3,500,000 through joining cooperative associations.
One 4-H Club member obtains \$50,000 worth of war bond pledges toward purchase of Liberty Ship.

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LOUISIANA
July 1, 1944

Dairying.- One of largest gatherings of dairymen ever held in State marked 32d annual meeting of Louisiana Jersey Cattle Club at Amite. Certificates were awarded by dairy herd-improvement association. Feature was awarding of 2 four-star bulls and 10 registered bull calves to shippers of Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas. Over 1,000 Louisiana dairymen attended. Three outstanding herds awarded certificates of improvement were those of experiment station at Calhoun and Polytechnic Institute at Ruston, and C. B. Billeaud herd, Lafayette. For each herd, scientifically improved pasture was principal factor in production records.

Extension dairymen made several trips to other cattle-producing States to assist Louisiana dairy producers in selection of high-grade cows and purebred registered bulls for improving quality of dairy herds. Total of 180 animals were selected in Texas, Missouri, and North Carolina.

Feed and livestock.- Intensive campaign was conducted throughout State to stimulate growing of feed at home to meet prevailing shortages and to adjust livestock numbers to prospective feed supplies. Specific recommendations were made to growers of dairy and beef cattle, swine, and poultry, and to producers of feed grains and hay. Pasture work was given special emphasis. Outline was distributed on what and when to plant to cope effectively with situation. Meetings were held in strategic centers throughout State to enlist cooperation of feed and livestock growers. Response was prompt and widespread. Newspaper stories and editorials, radio broadcasts, fill-in articles by agents, circular letters, and other information channels were employed to keep campaign in high gear.

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Emergency farm labor.— More than 20,000 school boys and girls were enlisted for emergency farm work during summer as harvesters of potatoes, beans, tomatoes, and other truck crops. Project was carried out with cooperation of parish school boards and principals, so children would not miss any required school attendance. Each parish program was directed by local farm labor supervisor and advisory committee of farmers and civic leaders.

Irish potato blight.— Loss of nearly half of anticipated Irish potato crop resulted from epidemic of late blight that swept State just as digging season set in. Blight appeared first in LaFourche Parish and then in Terrebonne, spreading rapidly north until most of potato fields in State were affected. Late blight, same that caused great famine in Ireland 100 years ago, rarely affects Louisiana. This year, rains encouraged its spread. Through daily and weekly newspapers, radio, and circular letters, farmers were told of methods of preventing outbreak next year.

Dried-sweetpotato program.— Army Quartermaster Corps contracted for approximately 6 million pounds of dried sweetpotatoes and will purchase additional quantities if supplies are available. Volume already contracted for is same as last year, when product proved satisfactory to Army officials. Dehydrated sweetpotatoes are used mainly for lend-lease supplies shipped overseas.

Cooperative associations.— Louisiana farmers have gained about \$3,500,000 through participation in cooperative associations. Extension staff, experiment station, and university teaching staff are engaged in educational program to inform businessmen, housewives, and women's organizations of importance of movement. Last year 106 cooperative farm business organizations in Louisiana had 33,020 members, who handled \$51,340,000 worth of products. State has 36 cooperative marketing organizations with 7,380 members, who last year sold \$21,880,000 worth of farm products. Seventeen fruit and vegetable cooperatives led in total number of members, but rice growers topped all other groups in value of products handled.

Nutrition workshops.— During June, parish nutrition committee workshops were held in 13 parts of State to stimulate activity and emphasize importance of nutrition in war. Regional nutritionist of War Food Administration addressed each workshop. Attendance totaled 533 nutrition representatives of virtually all parishes of State.

4-H wildlife school.— Intensive school of wildlife instruction, held in bayou country at south Louisiana, was sponsored by 4-H Clubs of St. Charles Parish, with cooperation of Extension, State department of education, and an oil company. Purpose was to teach 4-H members principles of trapping, shrimping, and fishing. Students were 12 boys and 12 girls from families engaged in these industries all their lives. Project involved 2-day tour of coastal region for inspection and study of muskrat marshes, bird feeding grounds, oyster and crab beds.

Name-a-Liberty Ship campaign.— State-wide 4-H campaign to solicit war bond pledges sufficient to buy Liberty Ship was unqualified success. Goal was slightly under \$2,000,000, but total amount of bonds disposed of through efforts of 4-H members was \$3,407,656. Bossier Parish reached 391 percent of its quota. Vermilion Parish had highest total of pledges--\$161,378. Highest number of pledges made through single club member was 1,452. Highest amount pledged through one club member was \$50,518. By popular vote of 4-H members throughout State, name of Floyd W. Spencer was chosen for Liberty Ship, as representing individual not now living, who had made most outstanding contribution to agriculture and welfare of Louisiana youth during his lifetime.

Good Neighbor program. - Participating in Good Neighbor program, Extension Service is sponsoring training of Brazilian agronomist in methods and practices of Louisiana farming. Demostenes Silvera Fernandes, director of seed-producing experiments at Maranhao, in Northern Brazil, under Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, arrived early in June to begin course of practical instruction, which will include several months' residence on farms devoted to diversified farming, in southwest Louisiana.

Negro achievement day. - More than 1,200 attended East Baton Rouge Parish's first negro achievement day, held at Southern University. Meeting was described by 4-H Club leaders as one of most successful of its kind ever held in State. Contests in all departments of 4-H work were marked by lively interest and competition. Delegates from 25 4-H negro schools of parish attended gathering in college auditorium and reported on work being done by different groups.

OREGON

June 1, 1944

Livestock. - Progress is being made toward reaching livestock production goals. Goals involve considerable reduction of inventories of cattle and hogs on farms by next January as compared with January 1, 1944. Goal in sheep production calls for small inventory reduction. Sheep numbers in Oregon are about as low as long-time management plans would justify. Present indications are that objectives in swine production will be overreached. Liquidation of cattle is under way, but goals probably will not be attained unless feed conditions should continue unfavorable. There would then be much forced liquidation, which causes loss to producers and does not contribute efficiently to nation's food supplies. Throughout range cattle and sheep producing areas, indications are that State goal of 6-percent increase in hay acreage has not been attained, and prospect is for lighter yields than in several years.

Survey was made to find out extent of pasture improvement undertaken to increase livestock feed supplies. Reports from 13 representative counties indicated increases of 10 to 35 percent in improved pastures over 1943 in many areas, but declines in acreage in some others. Check on progress of grass silage program for improvement of feed conditions also showed variations in different counties but general advance in production.

Poultry. - Figures now available indicate 30 percent fewer chicks hatched in Oregon in first 5 months of year than in same period in 1943. Large stocks of eggs have accumulated at country points. Since War Food Administration buys in carload lots, sufficient quantities for purchase could not be assembled in areas where prices of eggs have been below floor prices. Laying hens have been flooding market. Suggestion was made that producers cull flocks and eliminate low producers but avoid marketing entire flocks, as situation might turn rather sharply.

Agricultural economics. - Special attention continued to be given to price policies of USDA and OPA as expressed through price supports, incentive prices, and maximum price regulations. Staff members concerned were kept informed of developments, and each order was abstracted for broadcast in connection with commodity market review to which it related. Some were given additional attention as special broadcasts.

Major attention was given to summarization of crop acreages and land uses in 1943 in counties, for use in connection with labor program and production plans. This information was reviewed with county agents.

4-H Clubs.— Greatest attention was given to Victory Gardens as part of State-wide effort to maintain numbers of gardens at high point of 50,000 for last year. Indications are that number of gardens is somewhat smaller this year, and because of unfavorable spring season, production will be even lower in proportion. Spring shows particularly featuring home economics work were held in several counties. 4-H Club program was strengthened by emergency war food assistants in several counties giving special attention to club work.

WYOMING
July 1, 1944

Labor.— Labor situation in Wyoming is well in hand. One thousand Mexican nationals are now employed in irrigated sections in beet fields and in other related work, and job of thinning beets will soon be completed. By July 15, 500 workers will be available for work in other States. Effort is being made to find other work for them, to keep as many as possible in the State for later needs. About 500 German war prisoners are employed in beet and bean sections. Some 70 Navaho Indians were brought in for work with sheep, and most of them have proved satisfactory. About only need not filled is for year-round farm hands. There is still a dearth of this type of help. County agents in sections where both Mexican nationals and war prisoners are employed have had big and often perplexing job in attending to all details necessary to keep labor functioning properly.

Foods and nutrition.— War work in food and nutrition for June has included meetings and demonstrations for training of leaders in canning, freezing, and drying. New methods in canning were demonstrated by specialist before 200 ranchwomen attending annual Wyoming Stock Growers' Association meeting. Exhibit on food preservation was made at annual meeting of homemakers' council. Fourth of series of district workshop meetings on food preservation was held during month to train home demonstration agents, food assistants, Farm Security supervisors, and teachers of vocational home economics.